

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS STATE 246683

FOLLOWING REPEAT OSLO 4615 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI,
BONN, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE, JAKARTA, JIDDA, KUWAIT, LONDON,
STOCKHOLM, TEHRAN, TRIPOLI, OECD PARIS, NATO, EC BRUSSELS,
CAIRO, DECEMBER 14,

QUOTE

UNCLAS OSLO 4615

DEPT ALSO PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG ID NO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NORWEGIAN CRUDE PURCHASES

REF: OSLO 4581

1. A SPATE OF REPORTS HAS APPEARED IN THE NORWEGIAN PRESS
ABOUT DIRECT OIL PURCHASES BY NORWAY. THE MOST PERSISTENT
STORY INVOLVES THE PURCHASE BY A PRIVATE COMPANY, NOREXIM,
WITH A WEST GERMANY OF 13 MILLION TONS OVER FIVE YEARS
OF CRUDE FROM THE INDONESIAN STATE OIL COMPANY PETROMANIA.
NOREXIM HAS IMPORTED SOVIET PRODUCT UNTIL RECENTLY (REFTEL)
AND HAS APPLIED FOR A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE FOR THE PURCHASE
FROM INDONESIA, BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS SAID IT WILL NOT
GRANT ONE UNLESS NORWAY GETS EXTRA OIL. THIS APPARENTLY WAS
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NOT NOREXIM'S ORIGINAL INTENTION.

2. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO SAID IT IS EXPLORING
POSSIBILITIES OF DIRECT PURCHASE OF OIL FROM ARAB PRODUCERS,
AND OIL COMPANIES HERE HAVE SAID THEY WOULD REFINES IT.
NORWAY'S LARGE TANKER FLEET WOULD FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF THIS
OIL, AND THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION, ALWAYS DENIED, THAT ARAB
STATES WOULD LIKE TO WORK OUT A SHIPPING ARRANGEMENT WITH
NORWEGIAN SHIP OWNERS. KNOWLEDGE THAT NORWAY ITSELF WILL SOON
BE AN OIL EXPORTER HAS ADDED FUEL TO THIS SPECULATION OF ARAB/
NORWEGIAN COOPERATION. GRIFFITH

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